

Review

Tick (✓) the pieces of advice which you think are good tips for Reading Part 3.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Read the text carefully before looking at the questions. 2 Read the questions carefully and make sure you choose the answer that matches the question. 3 When answering a question, find the relevant bit of text and read it again very carefully. 4 Don't expect to understand every word in the text. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 You can often work out the meaning of unfamiliar words and expressions from the context. 6 Do all the questions you can first, then go back and look again at the harder ones. 7 Don't leave any questions out – if you aren't sure of the answer, pick the one that seems most likely. |
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Follow the exam instructions, using the advice to help you.

You are going to read an article from a website. For questions 13–19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Tip! Remember that many words in English have a number of different meanings. If something doesn't seem to make sense in its context, consider whether it might have a different meaning there.

An interview with actor, John Malkovich

Journalist Lynn Barber reports on interviewing the actor John Malkovich for the second time in her career.

Amazingly, John Malkovich remembers that we met before, though it was 14 years ago, and greets me like an old friend. This is flattering but also embarrassing because I remember that interview in Chicago as one of the worst experiences of my journalistic life. I asked my first question; he stared at the ceiling for about 10 minutes and finally delivered a four-word answer. This happened with my second question and with my third, and I was calculating that at this rate I'd be stuck in Chicago until the icecap melted. He did speed up eventually but what I remember most clearly is how infuriating I found him for the first half hour.

Anyway, here he is now, sunny and chattering away. There are no long silences and he maintains eye contact throughout. We meet at the studios, where he is doing two days' work on a film called *The Mutant Chronicles*, based on a video game (he tried to explain the plot but I lost it after the first five minutes). He will do another day's filming before flying on to France. Is it normal to work on a film for just two days? 'I've done it a lot, yes. Sometimes you wish it lasted longer and sometimes you're quite glad it didn't.'

You get the impression he has made so many films (more than 60) he forgets them all. Luckily, he forgets the one he is meant to be promoting, *Art School Confidential*, which is a relief because it saves me trying to say anything nice about it. The *New York Times* described it as dull and full of self-pity. But there is another film, *Colour Me Kubrick*, in the pipeline in which he gives a hilarious performance as

the English conman who went round pretending to be the film director Stanley Kubrick, which seems more hopeful.

He's made a few really good films but then some terrible turkeys. He nearly always gives a good performance, but you often think: how could he have read that script and decided to make it? He says he doesn't regret any of his films because he always learns something, even if only that he never wants to work with that director again.

Maybe the problem is the work he gets offered. He once said he got very few offers from the States – is that still true? 'It's pretty true still, although I'm doing a couple of big American films at the moment. But that was never meant as a complaint – it was more a factual statement. People have said it had a lot to do with the fact that I spent the better part of 15 years living in Europe – they just don't think of you. That's the way the business is, that's the way it always has been. When I went to grab my bag at the airport today – and it was very heavy because after this I'm going back to our house in France for six weeks – I was thinking of how incredibly old and weak I am. And I suddenly thought, "It's funny, now I'm one of those guys I used to watch on television occasionally and you sort of know his face but you don't know from where." But I think that's the natural way of the business. I don't really worry about it.'

He talks as if he is incredibly old. In fact he is 52, which many male actors regard as their prime. But obviously he feels old. He tells me one of his knees is shot, which means

he can no longer garden, which he used to love doing, and he might have to have a knee replacement.

When he and his family moved back to the States from France recently, they chose Cambridge. Did he choose it because he wanted to be among the academics at the University of Harvard? 'No!' he laughs. 'That would be lost on me – I'm an actor!' Oh come. Whatever Malkovich is, he is not thick. He reads a lot, he follows international news, he speaks several languages. But you see the flash of his intelligence in throwaway remarks rather than sustained arguments; he has a great fear of seeming too serious.

'At school they expected me to be an enormous failure who might be able to find a career as a sort of quarrelsome

academic somewhere but who would never amount to anything as a performer or a director.'

How awful, I tut-tutted, to be made to feel a failure at school. But he responds with unusual vehemence, 'I don't care! I don't care what other people think. I don't think it matters.' If true, this is an admission of extraordinary arrogance. Nothing that anybody says, no amount of negative criticism, can touch him or shake his extreme cool. I don't actually believe it is true, because he would be an insufferable person if it were, but it is interesting that he likes to believe he is opinion-proof. He will need to be when *Art School Confidential* comes out. At all events, he is by far the most interesting actor I have ever interviewed.

13 How did the writer feel about her first interview with John Malkovich?

- A embarrassed because she handled it so badly
- B angry because he made it so difficult for her
- C impatient because she was anxious to leave Chicago
- D disappointed because he was so unfriendly

14 What does the reader learn about the film, *The Mutant Chronicles*?

- A It is a very short film.
- B It is to be used for a video game.
- C It has a complicated storyline.
- D John Malkovich has a small part in it.

15 The writer thinks that *Art School Confidential* is

- A better than the *New York Times* said it was.
- B more entertaining than *Colour Me Kubrick*.
- C not a film she will probably go to see.
- D a film that it is hard to find something good in.

16 The writer expresses surprise that Malkovich

- A got involved with some very bad films.
- B manages to make even bad films seem good.
- C has worked with some very poor directors.
- D is sorry he made some of his films.

17 Malkovich says he is not concerned about the fact that

- A he is getting older and less healthy.
- B people know his face but not his name.
- C he is better known in Europe than the USA.
- D he may have to have an operation on his knee.

18 What impression does the writer give of Malkovich's intelligence?

- A He would be out of place in a group of university academics.
- B He likes talking about a range of interesting subjects.
- C He is a good person to enjoy an argument with.
- D He does not wish to appear too intellectual.

19 The writer is not convinced by Malkovich's claim that

- A he was a failure at school.
- B he is an arrogant person.
- C he doesn't think his own work matters.
- D he doesn't care what others think of him.

Advice

13 Read the whole of the first paragraph before you answer this question.

14 Skim the text to find the title of the film in the question and then read that part of the text carefully.

15 Remember to look for the writer's opinion here, rather than that of the 'New York Times' or anyone else.

16 Remember that, in a question like this, several options may be true but only one of them will be what the writer 'expresses surprise' about.

17 The text refers to points in all the options but which of them does Malkovich say 'he is not concerned about'?

18 Read the paragraph relating to Malkovich's intelligence very carefully in order to work out exactly which option is the correct answer here.

19 Read the question carefully – it says 'disbelieves' not 'believes'.